



# USACE CADD NEWSLETTER

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ISSUE NO. 5

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## CADD Newsletter

This unofficial newsletter, is authorized under the provisions of AR 25-30, and is intended to keep all Corps personnel who are involved in the use and management of CADD informed of CADD related issues throughout the Corps as well as HQUSACE changes and initiatives which will affect the Engineering business process. The Newsletter will be issued electronically on a quarterly basis. Articles on CADD issues with a broad area of interest are solicited from the field. Send all submissions to [jean.a.mcginin@usace.army.mil](mailto:jean.a.mcginin@usace.army.mil).

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## CADD/GIS Technology Center Discussion Forums

The new Center discussion forums have been very active since being implemented. There have been many questions from DoD personnel as well as private Architect-Engineer firms. There has been much discussion on the AEC CADD Standards. The Center has been responding well to questions raised. To sign up for a Forum, go to the Center Web Site at [tsc.wes.army.mil](http://tsc.wes.army.mil); click on Forums on the left hand side of the page; select the Forum you want to comment on; and provide information requested. This is your forum; use it to share and get information.

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## FY99 FAC Group Accomplishments

Systems FAC Group:

1. Managed the Corps CADD Web Page and developed the Knowledge Base section on this web site. The Knowledge Base description says, "The Corps Knowledge Base for CADD software and system information is a database of information about the CADD systems within each district and division. The population of this database is accomplished by POC's at each office. This system was designed to assist

Corps personnel in establishing networks of experts to assist one another in solving problems related to Corps specific missions. Each person listed under a particular hardware or software can be assumed to be experienced in its use or operation. Please use this Knowledge Base to assist you in performing your work.” Currently there is data from three districts in the database. **Contact Mary Diel at Sacramento District, 916-557-6833, to get your login and password as well as instructions for inputting your data into the system.**

2. Worked with SAC chair to pool Bentley Select credits to develop training materials for a class on the Workspace for MicroStation. Efforts included extensive reviews of the workspace and the training materials as well as making all arrangements for three classes, which were taught to Corps MicroStation Users.
3. Held monthly telephone conference calls to resolve issues and plan projects.
4. Completed MicroStation File Manager Project for CADD/GIS Technology Center (the Center).
5. Completed Developers Guide project for the Center.

Civil/Site FAC Group:

1. Completed InRoads Preference Sets project for the Center (Posted on Center web site)
2. Completed Development of Civil/Site Engineering Solutions Manual project for the Center (Posted on Center web site).
3. Arranged for advanced training class on InRoads for Corps personnel.
4. Developed project for FY00 Center program -- Development of a Civil/Site Virtual Center of Expertise.

Architectural FAC Group:

1. Developed a project for FY00 Center program -- Furniture Data Web w/Links to Contract Catalogs and Design Software.

Structural FAC Group:

1. Developed revised scope for Automation of Drafting for Single Story Steel Structures and Metal Buildings, a FY99 Center project

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### **MicroStation Workspace Status**

The final version of the MicroStation Workspace was completed and delivered to the Center 1 December 1999. A CD containing version 1.8 of the A/E/C CADD Standards (in pdf format), the MicroStation Workspace, and File Checker should be available from the Center after the first of the year. Version 1.8 is currently posted on the Center web page (tsc.wes.army.mil) and includes 15 of the 16 symbol libraries in .cel format. The final .cel library and the libraries in AutoCAD format should be available in December.

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### **MicroStation Workspace Training for Users**

Three MicroStation Workspace training sessions for users were held as follows: 6-7

October in Dallas, TX, 13-14 October in Atlanta, GA, and 27-28 October in Sacramento. The classes were well received by those who attended; the overall rating from the evaluation sheets was 4.43 with 5 being outstanding and 4 being good. Thirty-three Corps employees were trained from 28 districts plus the CADD/GIS Technology Center, TEC and the Trans Atlantic Center. The Course Guide, Users Guide plus Class dgn files are available on the Corps CADD web site at [ckb.wes.army.mil](http://ckb.wes.army.mil) under Training.

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### **MicroStation Workspace Training for Systems Administrators**

A second class for the MicroStation Workspace for Systems Administrators was held at the Center 26-27 October. Sixteen Corps of Engineers System Administrators attended the class.

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### **Spatial Data Standards Implementation Workshop**

The next Spatial Data Standards (SDS) Implementation Workshop will be held on February 1 - 4, 2000 at The CADD/GIS Technology Center, Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Vicksburg, Mississippi. Additional information is available under the "Classes" area of the Center's Internet Web Site [tsc.wes.army.mil](http://tsc.wes.army.mil).

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### **CADD/GIS Technology Symposium & Exposition 2000**

The CADD/GIS Technology Center for Facilities, Infrastructure, and Environment will sponsor its tri-annual Symposium and Exposition in May. *Symposium 2000* represents the fourth Center-sponsored gathering of CADD, GIS, and facility management users from the Federal government community. The last meeting drew over 1,200 attendees. Reflecting changes in the mission of the Center, Symposium 2000 will be sponsored by 12 Federal agencies. With over 100 exhibition booths highlighting the latest technology and achievements in CADD, GIS, facility management, remote sensing, hydrography, and mapping, this Symposium is guaranteed to surpass all others. The Symposium will be held at the Adam's Mark Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri, May 23-25, 2000. If you are interested in making a presentation at the Symposium, please submit an abstract to the Center for consideration by February 18, 2000. The four primary areas of focus for paper topics are Technology, Applications, Data Management, and Design Engineering. For more information on the four focus areas with suggested topics and on-line abstract submittal, please visit the Symposium web page. Registration for attendance can be made at the Center's web site at [http://tsc.wes.army.mil/Center\\_Info/symposium/2000/](http://tsc.wes.army.mil/Center_Info/symposium/2000/). The Corps of Engineers has received a waiver from Corps Conference Policy to allow up to 350 Corps personnel to attend this event.

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### **Center Corporate Staff Meeting**

: The first meeting of the CADD/GIS Technology Center (the Center) Corporate Staff was held at Patuxent Naval Air Station 16-18 November 1999. Under the new charter for the Center, which is being staffed for signature within chartering organizations, the Corporate Staff is created as a replacement for the old Executive Working Group (EWG) and Field Technical Advisory Group (FTAG). Those attending the meeting included new members from GSA and NASA, who have joined the group as part of the plan to expand the Center's customer base. There was extensive discussion on the composition and function of the Corporate Staff. The group also discussed the report from the Symposium committee and made decisions on the name and structure of the Symposium. The Center Chief presented a status of all FY99 projects. Additionally, the group discussed how to implement the Business and Marketing Plan, which was approved at the August Board of Directors meeting, and make it a living document. Patuxent River personnel made a presentation of their Shore Station Integrated Information System, which demonstrates an excellent utilization of information technology in the installation management. A presentation was also given on the Corps TIPD initiative, inviting comments and input from the members.

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### **Center Board of Directors Meeting**

The CADD/GIS Technology Center (the Center) BOD met in the Casey Building at the Humphreys Engineer Center, 31 August 1999. Representatives of several Federal agencies were invited to join the BOD as part of the plan to expand the Center's customer base. As a result of these invitations, Mr. Bill Brubaker, NASA and Mr. David Harris, NIBS, accepted the invitation and were present at the meeting. A proposed revised charter, a Business and Marketing Plan, and the proposed FY00 Center Workplan were presented to the board and unanimously accepted. As part of the new charter and business plan, the Corporate Staff replaces the Executive Working Group (EWG) and the Field Technical Advisory Group (FTAG). During FY99 Mr. Dwight Beranek has been the Chair of the BOD, and Mr. Deke Smith, Navy, has been the chair of the EWG. For FY00 the chair of the BOD will be Dr Get Moy, Navy, and the Chief of Staff will be Mr. Mikeual Perritt, Air Force. During the meeting several presentations were given on the current and future focus of GIS technology use within DOD. Ms. Nancy Blyler, CECW-EP, presented the Corps strategy, and LTC Brian Cullis presented the Air Force GeoBase concept. The vendor gave a demonstration of ArchiCAD, an object-based CADD software program

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### **AutoCAD Workspace**

The Center is working on a workspace for AutoCAD, modifying a program developed by the Coast Guard, CE-CADD. Completion of this project has been delayed. No date for a completion of the Beta version is available at this time. Elias Arredondo at WES is the POC for this effort. He can be reached at 601-634-4572.

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### **CADD Details Library CD**

Release 2.0 of the CADD Details Library has been completed!! The CD is ready for distribution. If you have not already ordered your copy, you can do so by contacting Steve Spangler at the Center.

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### **Call for Projects for the CADD Library**

The CAD Library is now able to post EBS disks for projects on its web site. There are currently sixty-five projects posted, which were contributed by six Corps Districts. There is also a comments link for submission of comments. The Library can be viewed at: <http://cadlib.wes.army.mil>. In order for the Library to be successful, it is essential that districts submit successful designs to the Tri-Service Center for inclusion in the library. Districts should submit appropriate disks to Elias Arredondo at CEWES, The CADD/GIS Technology Center for Facilities, Infrastructure and Environment, 3909 Halls Ferry Road, Vicksburg, MS 39180-6199.

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### **Free Conversion Software**

Under a DUSD-L contract with adcs, free raster to vector conversion software is available to any DoD agency which has a project which requires its use. The software is VP Studio, and the latest version is 6.5. Those who previously received free software under this program can get an upgrade to version 6.5. Anyone who is interested should contact Stacey Brown at [sbrown@adcs.com](mailto:sbrown@adcs.com), or call her at 1-800-983-5900.

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### **Call for Articles**

All articles in this issue of the Newsletter were written by Jean McGinn, CEMP-EE. I would encourage anyone in the field who has CADD related information of general interest to Corps personnel to submit articles (to my e-mail address) for the next issue, which should be issued the end of March.